

As President of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), an academic organization for journalism and mass communication educators, students, and media professionals, I would like to encourage

The Federal Communications Commission to move forward with “the Matter of Standardized and Enhanced Disclosure Requirements for Television Broadcast Licensee Public Interest Obligations.” The FCC has always insisted that broadcasters fulfill their “public-interest obligations” to communities, and to show that they have done so, a process that requires transparency. By requiring broadcasters to make paper copies of their filings available online, the new rule change would expand the public’s access to the broadcasters’ information. Compliance with the regulations and making these files available to the public would aid citizens, and researchers.

The proposed FCC rule change mandating online access will impose little additional burden to broadcasters (that is, it will not impose significantly greater costs or manpower), since broadcasters are already required to assemble these materials. Greater transparency is increasingly urgent, necessary, and logical given the ease of both loading documents onto the internet, and accessing/downloading them.